



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ground being that the boys were not sent to the schools to learn war tactics.

Dr. M. R. Morden of Adrian, Mich., one of the few members of the American Peace Society in that part of the State, gave an interesting and instructive address, under the title of "Peace Notes for 1907," at a peace and arbitration meeting held at the home of Mrs. Charles Humphrey on Friday, March 13. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Peace Department of the W. C. T. U. Dr. Morden presented in his paper the chief attainments of the peace cause for the past year.

Brevities.

... It is reported from Odessa that the boundary regulations in the Sakhalin island have been satisfactorily arranged, and that a treaty to this effect will soon be signed at Vladivostok between Russia and Japan. Half of the island was ceded to Japan by Russia at the close of the war, and the work of surveying the dividing line has been going on for some time.

... The Department of State at Washington has been informed by the governments of the Central American States that the Conventions agreed upon at the Peace Conference held in Washington in December, 1907, have all been approved by the various Central American legislative bodies, under the following dates: Nicaragua, February 15; Costa Rica, February 25; Salvador, February 27; Honduras, March 3; Guatemala, March 13.

... It is reported from the International Bureau of the American Republics at Washington that the erection of the new building for the Bureau, for which Mr. Carnegie has given three-quarters of a million dollars, will be commenced about the middle of this April.

... The *Westminster* (London) *Gazette* says: "If a sanitary engineer comes into your house and says that you will catch typhoid fever unless you alter your drainage in such and such a way, you will be guilty of insanity if you do not follow his advice. But if a military or naval expert tells you that an expenditure of ten or twenty millions is necessary to protect you from invasion, you have ample warrant in history and experience for thinking that he may be wrong, and that he will waste a good deal of your money if you give him a blank cheque."

... The *Ohio State Journal* says that if they had in Columbus the amount consumed by the salute of twenty-one guns from each of the sixteen ships of the Pacific flotilla as it steamed away from the shores of Peru, all the men and women out of work in the city could have been fed all winter. The entire sum which the great cruise will cost, as estimated, would have given all of the cities of the United States of twenty thousand population and over at least fifty thousand dollars each for the support of those out of employment during the winter.

... On March 4 six of the thirteen conventions negotiated by the powers party to the recent Hague Conference were ordered reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Secretary Root and Solicitor Scott of the State Department explained to the committee the purposes of the conventions. The treatise

acted upon are those against which it is thought no opposition will be raised in the Senate, and relate to the following: The opening of hostilities; laws and customs of wars on land; rights and duties of neutral States and individuals in land warfare; the placing of submarine mines; bombardment of undefended towns by naval forces, and adapting the Geneva Convention principles to maritime warfare. These six conventions were ratified by the Senate on March 10.

... In an interview on March 8, Baron Takahira, the new Japanese Ambassador at Washington, said: "No more now than ever before do our purposes traverse the interests of any other people. Scrutinize our history, examine closely all that we have done within the last decade, and tell me whether you find one solitary indication of any purpose other than that which any great member of the family of nations, self-respecting and careful of the welfare of its own people, but mindful also of the rights of other peoples, is bound to hold."

... The *Inman Review*, of Inman, Kan., says: "Teach your boys that are growing up not to shoot any living thing except in self-defense. Teach them that fighting and hunting belong to the savages of the past; that if they must shoot somebody or something, let it be those monsters in human form that are fattening on blood of the toiling millions, that are growing rich on the poverty and degradation of a multitude of men and women, of boys and girls. Not shoot them with bullets, but with paper wads, or rather wads of paper, on which is printed in clear type a plain account of their greed and cruelties. This is the big game that our youth should be taught to hunt. Hunt them with Bibles and ballots. Hunt them with facts and figures. Hunt them with supreme courts and supreme contempt."

... In a recent excellent letter to the Boston *Herald* advocating the abolition of Evacuation Day, Edwin D. Mead said: "The devotion of two days in our precious year, Bunker Hill Day and Evacuation Day, to keeping ourselves hot about crazy old George III. and British redcoats, is not only a disproportionate emphasis which is ridiculous, but the celebrations, which now in their mere character have largely degenerated into vulgarity and noise, have become positively obnoxious and a hindrance to right feeling. They tend to keep open old sores which ought to have been healed long ago and contribute to maintain in certain circles an ill-will against England which has pernicious practical consequences."

... The British army and navy estimates combined for this year are \$3,000,000 more than last year, in spite of the efforts of the government to keep the budgets down.

... On the walls of the meeting room of a young men's Lincoln Club at Five Points, New York City, hangs an old army musket. On it is painted in bright red letters just three words, "War is hell." It is said that a lot of folks have been shocked and impressed by this silent preacher.

... At Hillsboro, O., it is proposed to have in June a lawn *fête* party at which a series of papers will be read on these topics: Peace in the Home, Peace in the Church, Peace in the School, Peace in Society, Peace in the State, Peace in the Nation, Peace in the World.

... General Fock and General Smirnoff have fought a duel at St. Petersburg to determine whether Smirnoff told the truth about Fock or the latter had had his "honor" injured by what the former had said of his conduct at Port Arthur. General Fock shot General Smirnoff mortally in the abdomen and thus proved that Smirnoff had lied and that his own conduct had been "honorable," according to the ancient and — execrable code of the duel. Poor Russia! Poor any country in which this base and idiotic practice is still allowed by the government to any class of its citizens. But can any one give a shadow of reason why international dueling is any less base and idiotic than personal dueling?

... It is reported from Washington that Secretary Root and Ambassador Bryce have determined to hold in abeyance the treaty for the submission of the Newfoundland fisheries question to the Hague Court until the general treaty of arbitration between this country and Great Britain has been ratified. They believe that in this way the course of the Newfoundland treaty in the Senate will be facilitated. The general treaty with Great Britain will follow substantially the terms of the treaty recently concluded with France.

Is Japan a Menace to the United States?

BY REV. J. H. DEFOREST, D.D.

[The author of this most illuminating article on Japan has been thirty-three years a missionary of the American Board in Japan. He is this year at home on vacation. He probably understands the Japanese people better than any other American, and feels it his duty to do all in his power by word and pen to correct the false impressions of Japan which have been so unscrupulously circulated by our jingo press and so readily believed and spread by an ignorant public.—ED.]

What an unspeakable question! Up to the time of the tactless action of the San Francisco School Board of 1906, the friendship between the United States and Japan had grown into unique dimensions, until it was freely termed by the governments and peoples of both lands a *historic friendship*. Certain it is that no nation ever felt so profoundly grateful to us for our sympathetic attitude of over half a century as did Japan. For our peaceful opening of Japan, when it was well known that any other nation, including even England, would have forced war on her; for our avowed readiness to grant equal treaties long before any other nation would take that ground; for our cordial reception of thousands of her young men into our institutions of learning; for our priority in recognizing her rights in Korea; for our sympathy in her gigantic war against the aggressions of despotic Russia; for our abounding aid in the recent famine,—for these and numerous other reasons, we have never bound any other nation to us by such golden cords of friendship.

Thus Japan, from one end of the empire to the other, from throne to people, grew to thinking of us as she did of no other nation. That word of profound appreciation and highest regard in all the East — *teacher* — was everywhere applied to us of the United States.

Then came those San Francisco incidents, the school affair, and the wrecking of the restaurants, with our jingo-journal insulting writings about Japan. It was like a slap in the face from a trusted friend. The people

of Japan were astonished beyond measure. And before they could recover from their amazement, our sensational press had declared war on Japan on the grounds that she was secretly making heroic efforts in her arsenals and navy yards, in purchasing vast amounts of war material, in accumulating a new war fund held mainly in Europe; that she was violating the open door; that she was quietly dumping her ex-soldiers by tens of thousands into Hawaii and California; that her spies were hovering around many of our most strategic fortifications; and, in short, that we would wake up some morning to find the Philippines and Hawaii under the Japanese flag, and an army of hundreds of thousands of veterans from Manchurian battlefields on our defenseless shores of the Pacific coast.

Never in the history of our nation was there a more baseless, senseless and shameful agitation against a great and friendly people than we have witnessed here during the last year. Proud as I am of our great Republic and our glorious flag, I never was so ashamed of my country as during the past year. On returning to New England last May my amazement increased week after week in finding among all classes of even intelligent men and women a marked distrust of Japan, a vague atmosphere of suspicion, and a readiness to believe that Japan after all had a fearfully swelled head, and that she was a probable peril to us. Not only our yellow journals, but many of our really able dailies, and some of our religious journals, were circulating insinuations about all departments of Japanese life. The widely credited charge of commercial dishonesty took the old form that, as Japanese could not trust each other, they had to have Chinese accountants in their banks! I have actually met returned travelers who, having had their checks cashed by Chinese in the Shanghai and Hongkong (British) bank at Yokohama, said that they *saw* Chinese in the banks and are only telling facts. Evidently not one of these intelligent (?) travelers knew that Japan had one of the best banking systems in the world, with a powerful Central Bank that financed two wars; that there are six great special banks, some of which have their branches in all the world's financial centres; and that there are twenty-two hundred local banks regulated by careful laws; in all of which no shadow of a Chinese can be found. They did not know that Japan has some of the ablest financiers in the world, who have successfully solved the exceedingly difficult problem of turning the nation from a silver to a gold basis without deranging the business of the empire.

Of course there is commercial dishonesty in Japan, as there always is whenever different nationalities meet and commerce begins with merchants ignorant of the language and with buyers traveling around the globe. You find it in Paris and London and in centres wherever the ignorance of one side invites the other side to take an advantage. This commercial immorality is especially brisk in the open ports of the East, brisk with contracts, trade marks and patents, brisk everywhere until the law steps in and forbids it.

The only fair way to judge of Japan's commercial dishonesty is to bear in mind, first, that there are great business houses there that have stood for ages with as clean a financial record, with as high moral treatment of their employees, with as generous public spirit, as some